WTO negotiations in Geneva

333. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have attended WTO negotiations held recently in Geneva;

(b) if so, what are the details of the decisions arrived at the meet;

(c) whether India was able to envolve a common strategy with like minded countries to protect Indian Farm Sector and interest of farmers; and

(d) if so, to what extent Government have been successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per Article 20 of Agreement on Agriculture of WTO, the negotiations on trade in Agriculture are underway at W.T.O. For this purpose, meetings are organized by W.T.O. The Government of India has been closely participating in these negotiations. India has already submitted its proposals. The last meeting for this purpose at W.T.O. was held during the month of January, 2003.

Increase in insurance premium of cotton crop

334. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government know that the sharp increase in the rate of insurance premium of cotton crop for the Kharif season of 2001 under Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana (RKBY) has proved detrimental to the overall agricultural economy of the nation; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are considering to take to protect the cotton growers from the burden of such sharp increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. There was only a small increase ranging from 0.05% to 4.50% in the premium rate of cotton crop in Kharif 2001 season in different States as compared to Kharif 2000 crop season. It may not have any substantial adverse impact on the agricultural economy of the country.

(b) Question does not arise.